

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

_____ **within** any one of the following time periods: (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR §1.53(d); (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491 of an international application; (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or (d) before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR §1.114.

 X **after** (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and includes *one* of:

_____ X The statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e) (see “statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e)” below).

or

_____ the fee of \$180 set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) (see “Fees” below).

_____ **after** the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e) (see “Statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e)” below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) (see “Fees” below).

_____ **after** the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and **within** thirty days of receiving each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR §1.704(d) (see “Statement under 37 CFR §1.704(d)” below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) (see “Fees” below).

Copies of the References

 X Copies of the references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are enclosed herewith. Attached to each reference not in the English language is a concise explanation of the relevance pursuant to 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

_____ A copy of the foreign search report is enclosed herewith.

_____ The references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent

Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 USC §120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

U.S. APPLICATIONS				Status (Check one)
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.				

Statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e)

_____ The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

X The **undersigned** hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Statement under 37 CFR §1.704(d)

_____ The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Fees

X No fee is owed by the applicant(s).

_____ The **IDS Fee of \$180** under 37 CFR §1.17(p) is enclosed herewith.

Method of Payment of Fees

_____ Attached is a check in the amount\$

_____ Charge Deposit Account No. 19-0733 in the amount of \$ (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

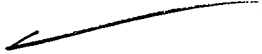
 X If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0733. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

Instructions as to Overpayment

 X Credit Account No. 19-0733.
 Refund

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 23, 2004

By: 
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